



Village Lodge Mammoth, CA

Overview: For those who prefer their mountain adventures without leaving behind the comforts of home, The Village Lodge is your destination. That's not to say that it's the Starbucks of mountain lodges, but the ubiquitous coffee chain is steps from your door here, as are a sushi bar, barbeque joint, boutique shops, massive heated outdoor pool, and multiple hot tubs.

Notable: Its central location makes this an ideal jumping-off point for golf, mountain biking, hiking, and fishing. Bikers: skip the shuttle to the Panorama gondola and warm up with a pedal up Minaret Road.

Our Take: Comfort and convenience without pretense.

Information: Summer rates start at \$179 (one-bedroom) and \$219 (two-bedroom); all include full kitchen complete with granite countertops. mammothmountain.com —Greg Ball



Capella Telluride Telluride, CO

Overview: With construction finished last year, the Capella Telluride marks the U.S. debut of Capella Hotels and Resorts, and brings international flair to the Mountain Village. The 84 rooms and 11 suites ooze with practical luxury, combining rustic stone and wood with modern amenities like flat-screen TVs, iPod connectors, and wireless Internet.

Notable: The property takes ski-in/ski-out to new levels with a ski valet that boots you up and even carries your skis the 100 yards to the snow. It will be interesting to see how Capella parlay's this service into summertime bicycling season.

Our Take: The rooms are a steal for the quality, service, and location. Prices will probably go up as the hotel becomes better known, so get in while the going's good.

Stay Here If: You want a hotel experience that mirrors the casual elegance of Telluride, but don't require kid-friendly amenities.

Information: All rooms and suites come with king-sized beds and offer cut rates during the summer. capellatelluride.com

—Jayme Otto